

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8753

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 12105

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR MRN 12105 VICE 1105

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PK, PINT

SUBJ: BALUCHISTAN: THE GAME PLAN CONTINUES

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF EMBASSY AIRGRAM ON THE SITUATION
IN BALUCHISTAN PREPARED BY EMBOFFS WHO HAVE JUST VISITED
THE PROVINCE.

2. THE GOP CONTINUES TO FOLLOW ITS LONGTERM MULTIFACETED
GAME PLAN TO PACIFY BALUCHISTAN AND TO BRING IT MORE FULLY
INTO THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND ADMINISTRATIVE MAINSTREAM
OF THE COUNTRY. AMONG THE ASPECTS OF THE PLAN HAVE BEEN:

-- A LARGE SCALE MILITARY PRESENCE TO COMBAT ARMED
INSURGENTS IN THEIR STRONGHOLDS, SECURE COMMUNICATIONS
LINES, AND PREVENT INCIDENTS IN PROVINCIAL TOWNS.

-- PROVISION OF WHAT BY PREVIOUS STANDARDS ARE
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LARGE SCALE FEDERAL FUNDS TO MODIFY ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL

STRUCTURES AND WIN POLITICAL LOYALTIES, INCLUDING IN THE LATTER PROCESS A WILLINGNESS TO TOLERATE NOT INCONSIDERABLE CORRUPTION.

-- EXPANSION OF THE PPP THROUGH THE COOPTING OF TRIBAL CHIEFS INTO THE PARTY (WHILE AT THE SAME TIME FIRST DENOUNCING AND LATER "ABOLISHING" THE FEUDAL SARDARI SYSTEM) AND THROUGH THE RECRUITING OF OTHERS, INCLUDING RELATIVES OF THE CHIEFS, MULLAHS, AND THE EMBRYONIC MIDDLE CLASS.

-- REPRESSION OF THE MORE INSTANSIGENT OF THE OUSTED NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY (NAP) LEADERSHIP AND THEIR SYMPATHIZERS IN THE STUDENT COMMUNITY AND ELSEWHERE COMBINED WITH EFFORTS TO WIN OVER THE MORE MODERATE AND OPPORTUNISTIC.

-- GRADUAL STRENGTHENING OF THE BUREAUCRACY THROUGH ASSIGNMENT TO SENIOR POSITIONS OF COMPETENT OUTSIDERS AND THE TRAINING OF LOCAL PEOPLE TO ASSUME POSITIONS OF INCREASING RESPONSIBILITY.

-- A STRONG PERSONAL AND POLITICAL COMMITMENT TO THE EFFORT ON THE PART OF PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO, DEMONSTRATED BY REPEATED VISITS TO THE PROVINCE. THE ONLY MAJOR ELEMENT IN THE ORIGINAL PLAN WHICH HAS HAD TO BE SHELVED WAS THE MAINTENANCE IN OFFICE OF A "RESPONSIBLE" GOVERNMENT IN QUETTA.

3. EMBASSY OFFICERS VISITING QUETTA LAST WEEK FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO MEASURE THE PROGRESS THE GOVERNMENT HAS ACHIEVED IN IMPLEMENTING ITS APPROACH. THE MOST OBVIOUS SUCCESS THE GOP HAS SCORED HAS BEEN IN ITS EFFORTS TO MAKE THE PPP THE PROVINCE'S PREEMINENT POLITICAL ORGANIZATION. THE ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY CREAKS ALONG; WHETHER IT IS IMPROVING IS A MATTER OF SHARP DIFFERENCES OF OPINION. IN THE ABSENCE OF POLITICAL GOVERNMENT, IT IS PROBABLY FREER OF MORE EGREGIOUS FORMS OF CORRUPTION, BUT LESS RESPONSIVE AND MORE HIDEBOUND. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REMAINS A VERY DISTANT GOAL, AND AT THE MOMENT IT IS APPARENTLY CONFIDENTIAL

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SUBORDINATE TO POLITICS. QUETTA ITSELF IS QUIET, AND THERE IS NO VISIBLE EVIDENCE OF UNUSUAL SECURITY PRECAUTIONS IN THE CITY ITSELF. OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL DISSIDENT ACTIVITY CONTINUES, THOUGH ON A SCALE MUCH REDUCED FROM THAT AT THE HEIGHT OF THE INSURGENCY.

4. ALTHOUGH A CONTINUATION OF GOVERNOR'S RULE WOULD BE EMBARRASSING TO BHUTTO AND WOULD INVOLVE FURTHER

CONSTITUTIONAL LEGERDEMAIN, HE CAN LIVE WITH THE PRESENT
SITUATION FOR SOME TIME LONGER WITH
BUT ITS THREATENING
TO UNRAVEL THE REST OF HIS GAME PLAN. CONTINUING PARTY
GEUDING, A LACK OF TALENT, AND PROBLEMS POSED BY FURTHER
PAK-AFGHAN NEGOTIATIONS SUGGEST THAT HE MAY DECIDE TO
WAIT UNTIL THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTIONS BEFORE SETTING UP
A NEW RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT.
BYROADE

NOTE BY OC/T: CU TAKE AS ORIGINAL DISTRIBUTION.

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